

26 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Intelligence Coordination
FROM : Assistant Director for Operations
SUBJECT : Declassification Policy and Practice of FDB

1. Overtly acquired newspapers, periodicals and books constituting most of FDB's source materials are subject to classified reporting for three reasons:

a. To make secure CIA's interest in the subject matter.

b. To prevent disclosure of national requirements (a large volume of reports from documentary sources could be analyzed to determine the intelligence requirements against which the reports were prepared).

c. To prevent more rigid Soviet orbit restrictions on the release of publications for export.

2. Some reports are necessary for the work of outside contractors of intelligence agencies. FDB authorizes declassification of such reports when requested subject to the following conditions:

a. That the source publication is available at the Library of Congress or other repository open to the public.

b. All CIA identification is removed before dissemination.

c. That the spread of requested reports does not disclose classified intelligence requirements.

d. Concurrence of I&SS.

There were approximately 20 declassifications of this type in 1952.

3. When the source or contents of a summary, translation, or report do not require security classification and the need for its specific dissemination is known or anticipated at the time of its reproduction, the outer cover is classified and carries CIA identification. Inside the cover is a statement that the document becomes unclassified when the cover is removed. One example of this device is the "Soviet Machine Tool Catalogue." Approximately three reports were published in this manner in 1952.

4. A procedure similar to that outlined in Paragraph 3 above is used for "Periodical Abstracts." These are abstracts of the articles in Soviet scientific literature. Each issue contains approximately 100 abstracts published in 3 x 5 card-sized text. Thirty-three issues of "Periodical Abstracts" were published in 1952.

/s/

GEORGE G. CAREY